



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

January 6, 2005

CHDP Program Letter No.: 05-01

TO: CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)  
PROGRAM DIRECTORS, DEPUTY DIRECTORS STATE CHILDREN'S  
MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH STAFF AND REGIONAL OFFICE  
STAFF

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN SCHOOL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS  
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004–2005

**Purpose**

This program letter provides notification of the changes in legislative authority for reporting of health examinations of children entering first grade, instructions for local CHDP programs and their ongoing responsibilities for private and public schools.

**Legislative Background**

In cooperation with the local CHDP program, the governing body of every public school district and private school that has children enrolled in kindergarten is required to provide information to the parents or guardians of all children on the importance of health to learning and the importance of receiving a health screening before the end of first grade.

The California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 124085 requires each child within 90 days of entrance into the first grade to provide a certificate of health examination approved by the Department of Health Services to the school where the child is to enroll. This certificate documents that within the prior 18 months, the child has received the appropriate health screening and evaluation services. In lieu of such a certificate, the school can accept a waiver signed by the child's parents(s) or guardian indicating that he/she does not want or is unable to obtain a health assessment and evaluation services.

Prior to January 1, 2005, the H&S Code Section 124100 required every public school district and private school in California to report the following information on an annual basis:

- The total number of children enrolled in first grade.
- The number of children who have had health screening examinations as evidenced by certificates.
- The number of children whose parents or guardian have given written waivers that they do not want their children to receive health-screening examinations.

### **Changes in Legislation**

AB2855, Chapter 895, Statutes of 2004 included amendments to the H&S Code Section 124100. The amended H&S Code no longer require every public school district and private school in California to report data on the number of children receiving health-screening examinations at school entry. Therefore, public school districts and private schools are NOT required to submit the CHDP Annual School Report (PM 272) to the CHDP Program within the local health department and there will be no reimbursement provided. Private schools and public school districts may continue to gather and share this information at their discretion.

### **CHDP Responsibilities**

Local CHDP programs continue to have the responsibility to work collaboratively with schools to inform and empower families about obtaining and utilizing quality health care services. The activities involved in maintaining a liaison with public and private schools will help to support school readiness and ensure healthy children ready to learn.

CMS Branch will mail to all County Superintendents of schools, Superintendent of Elementary School Districts, Health Services Personnel and County Offices of Education the attached letter "Legislative Changes in School Reporting Requirements and the CHDP Program".

CMS Branch is also providing the following to local CHDP programs for distribution to private schools:

- Letter from the CMS Branch to Private schools.
- One set of Private School mailing labels.
- Local CHDP programs shall copy and distribute the CMS Branch letter to private school administrators.

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Thank you for your continued efforts to help protect the health of school children and enable children to be at their best and ready to learn.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Nurse Consultant in your Regional Office.

**Original signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.**

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch

Attachments